

Thinking of Ideas for a Story

Now that you know how to select a topic for a story, you will see how easy it is to come up with ideas for your story.

Let's assume we have selected for our story the topic of **how to pick an apple from a tree**. Now that we have a topic, we need to think of some ideas to put in our story.

Let's start by thinking of steps necessary **to pick an apple from a tree**.

- find an apple tree
- get a ladder
- climb the tree
- find a apple that is ripe
- pick the apple from the branch



Are these good ideas for a story about picking an apple from a tree? Yes, because they all tell about steps necessary to pick an apple.

A. Assume that we have a topic of **how to build a dog house**. Write an **X** next to the ideas that could fit in this story.

1. ____ buy the correct amount of wood and nails

2. ____ design the doghouse on paper

3. ____ buy a dog

4. ____ correctly saw the wood into pieces

5. ____ build the doghouse



Thinking of Ideas for a Story

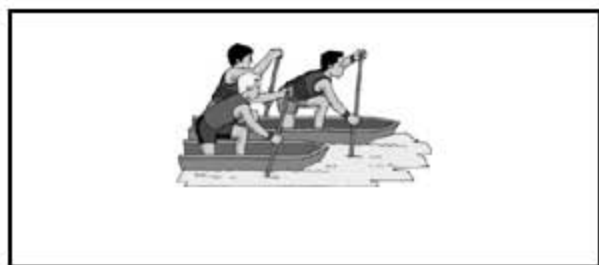
A. Look at the pictures below. Underline the ideas that could go into a story about each picture.



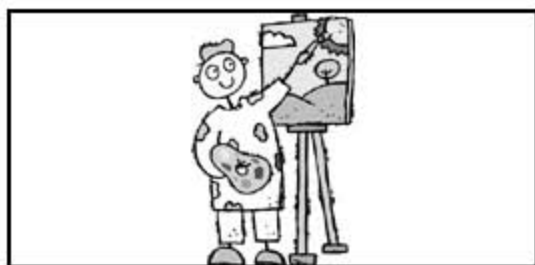
1. It is Adam's birthday.
It is getting dark.
He loves birthday cake.
I had peas for lunch.



3. Skating is fun.
I wear a helmet.
I get a drink of water.
I try not to fall.



2. I like to row the boat.
Rowing is hard work.
I like to climb trees.
I race other boaters.



4. Painting is relaxing.
I spilled paint.
I use pretty colors.
I paint often.

Lesson 14
Day 3

Thinking of Ideas
for a Story

- A. A boy named **Tommy** is writing a story about **his dog named Millie**. He has listed five ideas below that he thinks would be good for his story. There is one idea that really does not belong in his story. Cross out the idea that really does not belong.

Topic: **I like my dog**



1. I like Millie because she is large.
2. I like Millie because she likes to cuddle and lick my face.
3. Once I also had a hamster.
4. Millie likes to play fetch.
5. I also like the color of Millie's fur.

- B. Can you think of another reason Tommy might like Millie? Write it on the lines below.

1. _____

Thinking of Ideas for a Story

A. Mary is writing a story about **places where I would like to travel**. She has already thought of four ideas, but she needs your help. Write two more ideas for her.

- I would like to travel to Hawaii.
- I have always wanted to go to Ireland.
- I would like to see the Grand Canyon.
- I would like to play on a beach someday.



1. _____

2. _____

Thinking of Ideas for a Story

A. Below is a story about **making a glass of water to drink**. There are several steps or ideas in this story. Write two of the steps on the lines below.

When I get thirsty

When I get thirsty I want a nice cool glass of water to drink. First, I get a clean glass from the cupboard and place it under the faucet. Next, I turn the faucet on and fill the glass half full. Then, I put ice cubes in the glass. Finally, I take the glass to the kitchen table and drink it.

1. _____

Lesson 22
Day 1**Describing What We See**

In Lesson 21 we learned to write about how we feel. In this lesson we will learn how to write about what we **see**. What words come to mind when you think about things you see? When you see a **car**, do you **see** just a large **thing** that takes you where you want to go, or do you see something that is made from many different parts that each have different shapes, functions (how something works), colors, and textures? When you look at the parts that are combined to make something else, you can use the unique characteristics of those parts to provide more detail in your sentences.



What do you **see** when you look at the **kitchen** in your house? You can look at the kitchen as simply a room where you can eat, sit, or get a drink, or you can look at a kitchen as a place that has painted walls, a stove, small appliances, a table, chairs, and a floor. If you think about it, almost everything you see can be broken down into separate parts.

A. Look at each picture below. What do you see? Write an X on the line next to each detail that could be used to describe the detail of **what you see** in each picture.

1. a. ___ The fish is leaping out of the water.

b. ___ There are three people in the boat.

c. ___ The boat has sunk.

d. ___ The boy has caught the fish on his line.

e. ___ The fish has its mouth open.



2. a. ___ There is a bear riding the bike.

b. ___ The bear is standing on its head.

c. ___ There is a bird on the bear's shoulders.

d. ___ The bike has a front light.

e. ___ The bike has two tires.



Lesson 22
Day 2

Describing What We See

- A. Two details have been added to describe each picture below.
Add another detail on the lines to describe each picture. What do you see?

1. The clown has striped pants.
The clown is scared.



2. The horse is bucking.
The cowboy is falling from the horse.



Lesson 22
Day 3

Describing What We See

A. Take a look at your **bedroom**. Make a list below of three things you see there. Make sure that these things can be used to provide greater detail about your **bedroom** if you were describing it to someone who has never seen it.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Describing What We See

A. Take a look at the **kitchen** in your house. Make a list below of three things you see in your **kitchen** that can be used to provide greater detail about it if you were describing it to someone who has never seen it.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Describing What We See

A. Write a short sentence for each picture below that provides more detail than the general description next to each picture. Each sentence has been started for you.

1. guitar player



I see....

2. airplane



I see...
